(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan, including those in the News Wing, are in regular pay scales, which were revise w.e.f 01.01.1996 on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. It is too early to consider any further revision.

Labour Productivity

†5352. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ascertained the possibilities of increasing productivity in workers category in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent the existing productivity is estimated to be further increased;

(c) whether Government have also formulated any scheme for increasing the productivity; and

(d) if so,the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) the planning process in India has aimed at creating conditions for improvement in labour productivity through provision of training, upgradation of skills and improvement in tool-kits, equipments and production techniques. As improvement in the quality of employment in terms of income and productivity has been one of the focus areas of the recent plan, the approach to employment in Tenth Plan has also emphasised the need to increase the levels of productivity of workers in order to bring about an improvement in quality of existing employment. It is necessary not only to ensure that all adult persons looking for work are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

employed but also to ensure that they are employed at levels of productivity and income, which are necessary to afford them a decent life. The resources have been accordingly directed through the plan programmes towards achieving this objective.

The National Productivity Council also undertakes various projects and programmes aimed at improving productivity in the Indian economy, inluding the workers.

New Pension Scheme

5353. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert group on Government pensions had recommended a restructured two-tier pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing pension system is likely to be done away on the introduction of the new pension scheme; and

(d) by when the new pension scheme is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) the High Level Expert Group on pensions has recommended a hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution scheme consisting of two tiers. The first tier will be the mandatory tier and the second an optional tier. In the case of the first tier the Government servant is expected to make a monthly contribution of 10% on the basic pay and DA and a matching contribution is to be made by the Government. The first tier pension will be a defined benefit at 50% of the average emoluments for the last 36 months prior to superannuation. The Government servant may make a contribution to the second tier but this will be matched by the Government by an equal contribution only upto 5% of basic pay and D.A. As regards the second tier, the amount on retirement can be either taken as a lump sum or converted into annuities at the choice of the individual.

(c) The New Pension Scheme according to the Group is to be made applicable only to Government servants entering Government service from a stipulated future date. The Existing Pension System will continue for